(vii) The government has launched a centrally sponsored scheme titled "Apparel Park for Export Scheme" for imparting focused thrust for setting up of apparel manufacturing units of international standards at potential growth centres and to give fillip to exports.

(viii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme, (TCIDS) has been launched.

Strategy to increase export of handicrafts

†406. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have adopted any new strategy to increase export of handicrafts products;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government are also working for developing Bhagalpuri silk industry in Bihar and making it fit to earn profit;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, reasons thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI BASANAGOUDA R. PATIL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The new strategy adopted to increase export of handicrafts products include: tapping new and unexplored markets in LAC,CIS & African Markets; focussed export promotion programmes in strong markets of USA and EU countries; diversification of product line; quality improvement; hiring of services of reputed international & national designers; brand promotion; larger participation in fairs abroad; strengthing of Indian handicrafts and Gifts Fairs and setting up of India Exposition Mart at Greater Nodia.

(c) to (e) There is no special and separate scheme under implementation, for development of silk industry in Bihar. However, the Central Silk Board provides grants-in-aid under the centrally sponsored schemes namely Catalytic Development Porgramme (CDP) to various State Governments including the State of Bihar for developing silk industry.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.